services with public agencies and with private persons, and to make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act, to the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in advance by appropriations Acts.

(b) In exercising the special authority provided in paragraph (a) of this section, the Inspector General may request the assistance of the servicing Acquisition and Materiel Management Service in developing appropriate contract or agreement documents.

(c) If, in the opinion of the Inspector General, a reason to exercise the special authority does not exist, the services required by the Inspector General shall be obtained by the servicing Acquisition and Materiel Management Service or the local purchase and contract activity in accordance with the provisions of FAR and VAAR.

(d) Contracts entered into under the authority of paragraph (a) of this section are subject to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation. In addition, such contracts are subject to those provisions of VAAR which implement and supplement the FAR on matters other than those stemming from or related to delegations of the Secretary's contracting authority (e.g., management controls and approvals specified in subpart 837.2 will not apply to contract actions under the contract authority of the Inspector General).

[49 FR 12583, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 791, Jan. 7, 1985; 54 FR 31964, Aug. 3, 1989; 61 FR 11586, Mar. 21, 1996; 63 FR 69218, Dec. 16, 1998]

801.690 VA Contracting Officer Certification Program.

The policy and procedures for the VA-wide Contracting Officer Certification Program (COCP) are established in this section and subsections.

[52 FR 24010, June 26, 1987]

801.690–1 Definitions.

(a) *Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA)* means an individual who has overall responsibility for managing the procurement program assigned to the activity. HCA designations are prescribed in VAAR 802.100. The HCA has the authority to appoint contracting officers with authority to conduct pro-

curements of up to and including $25,000 or the maximum order limitation for orders placed against established contracts, and terminate such appointments.

(b) *Recommending official* means an individual who is authorized by VAAR 801.690 and its subsections to recommend to a designating official that an individual be appointed as a contracting officer.

(c) *Designating official* means an individual who is authorized to appoint and terminate contracting officers.

(d) *Contracting Officer Certification Board (COCB)* means the group of Department officials, listed in VAAR 801.690–3(c), that evaluates and recommends to the designating official individuals as contracting officers at the Intermediate and Senior levels of authority, which levels are described in VAAR 801.690–2(c).

(e) *Contracting Officer Certification Program (COCP)* means a program designated by Department management for the selection, appointment, and termination of appointment of contracting officers. Training, experience, education, performance, and conduct are the objective criteria reviewed prior to appointment as contracting officer.

(f) *Qualifications* means an employee's record of training, experience, education, performance, and conduct which are reviewed prior to designation as contracting officer. These "qualifications" are not identical, supplemental, or related to the position qualification requirements published by the Office of Personnel Management in Handbook X–118.

(g) *Appointment* means the delegation of authority to any employee to enter into, administer or terminate contracts, and make related determinations and findings. Appointment provisions are identified in 801.690–5.

(h) *Certification* means an evaluation that the candidate has the experience, education and training to perform properly the duties of a contracting officer.

(i) *Selection* means that an employee has been appointed or certified as a contracting officer. The "selection" process is not identical, supplemental or related to any process whereby an